

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the Application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waki et al. Japanese Patent Publication No. JP11-237558 in view of Meehan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,556,364). The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waki et al. in view of Meehan et al. and further in view of Davidovits et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,643,015); claims 6, 15, 18 and 19 as being obvious from Waki et al. in view of Meehan et al. and further in view of Aizaki et al. Japanese Published Application JP2001091849; claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waki et al. in view of Meehan et al. and Davidovits et al., and further in view of Horii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,809); claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waki et al. in view of Meehan et al. and further in view of Makigaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,696); and, claims 4 and 12 as being obvious from Waki et al. in view of Meehan et al., Davidovits et al. and further in view of Makigaki. Applicants amended claims 1, 9 and 18 to clarify that the objective lens is moved along the direction of the optical axis inside the objective unit. Accordingly, the objective lens, the objective frame, and the objective holder are arranged inside the hollow cylindrical apostrophe-shaped outer frame member.

In contrast, Waki et al. discloses a mechanism for moving the objective lens mounted on the revolver in directions perpendicular to the optical axis. Waki et al. fails to teach or suggest that the lens alone is moved inside the objective unit in the optical axis direction, while the objective unit is mounted on the revolver. The outer frame member 12 of Waki et al. is not a sheath or other cover structure of the objective lens. In addition, the lens holders 15, 18 of Waki et al. are not designed to move the objective lens in the optical axis direction. None of the secondary references make up for such deficiencies in the Waki et al. reference. For example, Meehan et al. is not directed to the field of microscopes. In addition, the outer frame member 230 of Meehan et al. is not a sheath of the objective lens. Davidovits et al. fail to disclose a structure corresponding to the outer frame member of the present invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record, whether considered individually or combined, teaches or suggests the features recited in claims 1-19, as clarified

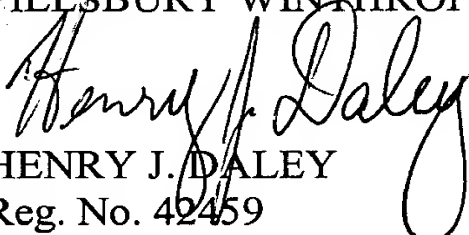
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with this amendment. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant has addressed all of the Examiner's rejections and respectfully submits the Application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-noted number if it may help expedite the prosecution of this case.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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